

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims in the following manner:

1. (currently amended) A structural element, comprising:
  - at least one layer of composite material,
  - ~~curable resin within said layer,~~
  - a decorated layer, [and]
  - a distinct barrier layer between said decorated layer and said at least one layer of composite material,
  - said barrier layer comprising an optically light pigment, and
  - cured resin within and around all of said layers.
2. (original claim) The structural element of claim 1, wherein said at least one layer comprises an optically dark material.
3. (original claim) The structural element of claim 1, wherein said optically light pigment is provided on a side of the barrier layer facing the composite material.
4. (currently amended) The structural element of claim 1, wherein said barrier layer further comprises a layer of woven polyester material.

5. (original claim) The structural element of claim 3, wherein said optically light pigment comprises a white pigment.
6. (original claim) The structural element of claim 3, wherein said barrier layer comprises a layer of non-woven polyester material.
7. (original claim) The structural element of claim 1, wherein said barrier layer comprises a metallic material.
8. (original claim) The structural element of claim 1, wherein said at least one layer comprises a stack of layers of composite material and curable resin within which said layers are disposed.
9. (currently amended) The structural element of claim 4 8, wherein said stack of layers comprises layers having different structural properties, and said barrier layer comprises a layer of woven polyester material.
10. (original claim) The structural element of claim 3, wherein said optically light pigment comprises a white pigment.
11. (original claim) The structural element of claim 3, wherein said barrier layer comprises a layer of non-woven polyester material.

12. (original claimr) The structural element of claim 3, wherein said barrier layer comprises a metallic material.

13. (currently amended) A decorative structural element, comprising:

an optically dark laminate material including at least one layer of composite material,

a barrier layer comprising one surface carrying an optically light pigment material, said barrier layer being supported by on said laminate material, with said one surface inhibiting absorption of the resin, and

a decorative image on said barrier layer and being visible to a viewer,  
laminate material

and cured resin around and within all of said layers .

14. (original claim) The decorative structural element of claim 13, wherein said optically dark laminate material includes a reinforcing material, and said optically light pigment material comprises another layer supported by said laminate material,

15. (original claim) The decorative element of claim 14, wherein said pigment material comprises a coating.

16. (Original claim) The decorative element of claim 14, wherein said pigment material comprises a film.

17. (Original claim) The decorative element of claim 14, wherein said pigment material comprises polyester material.

18. (Original claim) The decorative element of claim 17, wherein said polyester material comprises a layer of woven fabric.

19. (Original claim) The decorative element of claim 17, wherein said polyester material comprises a layer of non-woven fabric.

20. (Original claim) A process for building a structural element, comprising:

providing at least one layer of composite material,

disposing a barrier layer atop said at least one layer,

providing a decoration atop said barrier layer,

applying a curable resin about said layers, and

curing said resin so that said layers bond together to form an integral structural element.

21. (Original claim) The process of claim 20, wherein said barrier layer comprises an optically light pigment.

22. (Original claim) The process of claim 20, and further including a step of shaping said layers prior to curing said resin, wherein said structural element can be formed with a predetermined shape.

23. (Original claim) The process of claim 20, wherein said at least one layer comprises a stack of layers of composite material, each of said layers of composite material having its own set of structural properties.